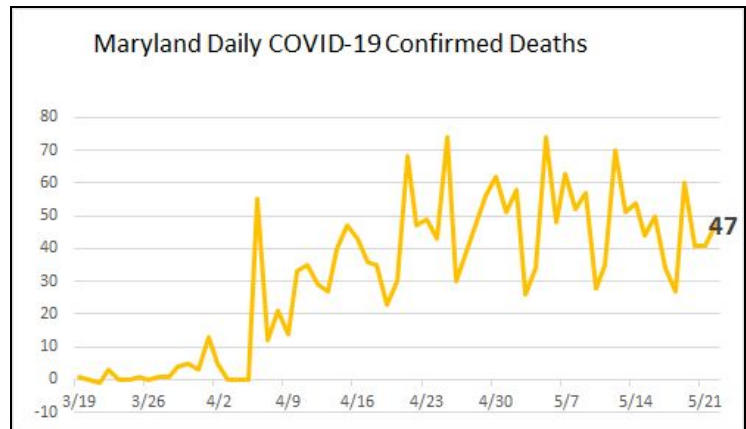
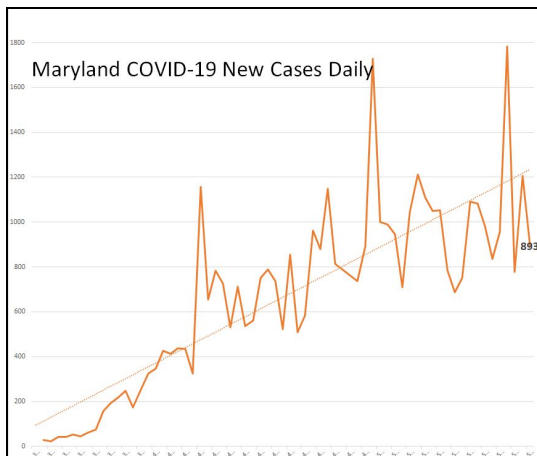
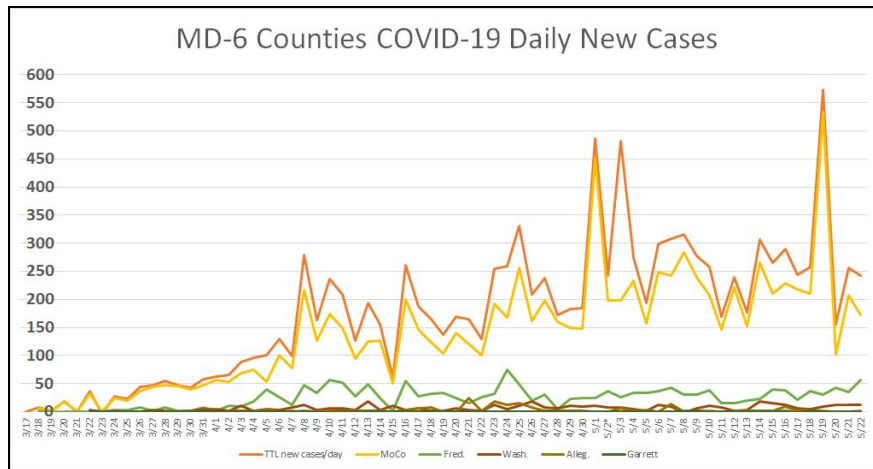
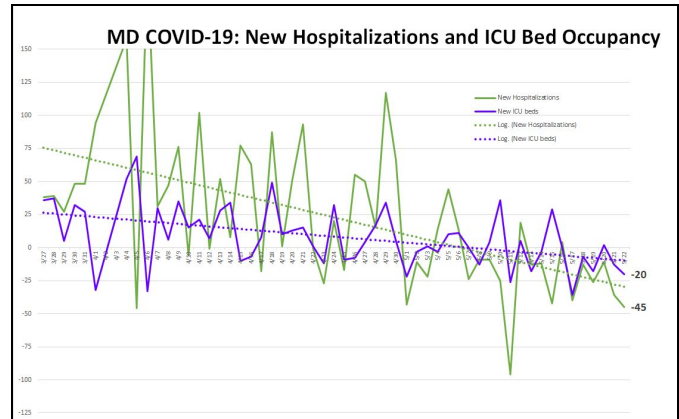
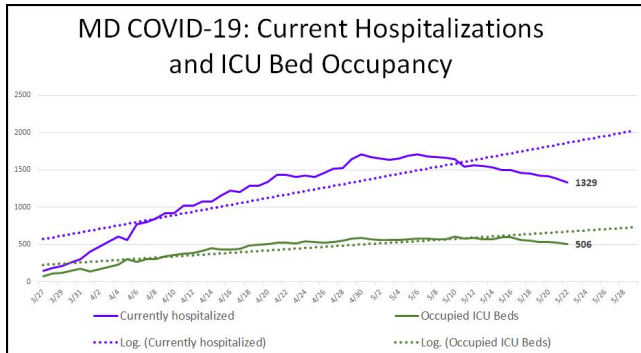


Daily Coronavirus Update: May 22 Congressman David Trone (MD6)

Stats @ 2 PM

With increased testing capacity coming online in Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan is tracking trends in **hospitalizations** and **ICU beds** for indicators on when to proceed with steps to fully reopen the state. Gov Hogan has given local governments flexibility for reopening decisions, based on local conditions.



Total cases reported: MoCo 9,432, Fred. 1,625, Wash. 389, Alleg. 168, Garrett 7. MD: 44,424, MD deaths: 2,092.

As of 2PM, the U.S. had recorded 1,588,322 confirmed cases and 95,276 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](https://www.jhu.edu/)).

Federal Updates

- White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett said Friday that he expects unemployment numbers to improve in June after 36 million people filed for unemployment since March. As reported by [The Hill](#), Hassett told CNN today that the unemployment rate is likely to fall as states begin to scale back social distancing measures and businesses reopen. He said that while the country might see another increase in unemployment before it decreases, preliminary data shows things are “heading in the right direction.” An additional [2.4 million Americans](#) filed for unemployment aid last week, bringing the total to more than 38 million new claims due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. ([Washington Post](#))
- Responding to President Trump’s call to develop 300 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine by January under Operation Warp Speed, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) has [announced](#) it is collaborating with AstraZeneca to make available at least 300 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine, with the first doses delivered as early as October 2020. The agreement will accelerate development and manufacture of the company’s vaccine to begin Phase 3 clinical studies this summer and, concurrently, into scaled manufacturing within the U.S.
- The coronavirus does not spread easily on surfaces, according to updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control(CDC). CDC guidance now focuses more on human-to-human transmission. And new planning documents from the CDC contain more of its estimates about the transmission of the virus. Touching surfaces and objects is now listed under the heading, “The virus does not spread easily in other ways” on the CDC web page. (reported by [WTOP](#))
- The President said Friday that he has deemed churches and other houses of worship “essential” and called on governors across the country to allow them to reopen this weekend despite the threat of spreading the coronavirus. He said if governors don’t abide by his request, he will “override” them, though it’s unclear what authority he has to do so. ([APNews](#))

Maryland Updates

[The Baltimore Sun](#) delivers weekly “five key points” summaries to keep Marylanders up to date on coronavirus. Highlights this week include:

- Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan has pledged to ramp up testing to include people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, as well as all detainees and correction officers inside juvenile detention centers. If successful, this expansion would clear some of the major hurdles in the way of a safe reopening. Since Maryland began testing and tracking those with the coronavirus, only those with symptoms — or who could prove they had come into direct contact with the virus — had a chance of getting swabbed.
- As parts of the state, such as Ocean City and Harford and Carroll counties, look to get back to a sense of normalcy, questions have emerged about what Marylanders should consider safe given the differences among counties. Consensus is that residents should continue to exercise caution as they return to a partially reopened state. For example, people should wear cloth masks while indoors or when in close proximity to others; older adults remain particularly vulnerable to contracting the virus and should not be visited by people who may have been exposed to it; and congregating at a swimming pool does not decrease your risk of catching it despite chlorine’s ability to kill harmful bacteria.
- With the state’s primary election less than two weeks away, major kinks in the Maryland State Board of Elections’ largely mail-in voting plan have surfaced. Administrative errors caused delays in the mailing of ballots to residents of Baltimore City and Montgomery County. The ballots also listed the wrong date for the primary. It’s scheduled for June 2, not April 28. Some South Carolina ballots were also found mixed in with Maryland ballots (the states share the same company to print their ballots).
- A reporting partnership between the New York Times and The Baltimore Sun found that COVID-19 cases

among nursing homes tended to reveal troubling disparities among those that service more people of color compared to those with predominantly white residents. While the causes of the discrepancies remain unknown, some reasoned that predominantly black and Latino nursing home residents enter into older adulthood with more extreme health disadvantages than their white counterparts. Nursing homes and assisted living facilities serve as microcosms of the experience on the outside, medical professionals said, mirroring reality rather than improving upon it.

- Nursing homes in Maryland have fared poorer than those in nearly every other state. Maryland health department officials did not answer questions about why that could be. More than half of the state's fatalities related to COVID-19 have been traced back to nursing home residents, state data shows.

District Updates

- **Montgomery County**
 - a. Earlier this week, four of the six hospitals in Montgomery County were at maximum capacity for ICU beds, County Health Officer Dr. Travis Gayles said at a virtual council meeting Thursday. As of this morning, only two are at capacity and more beds are becoming available.
 - b. Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich said the county may be able to begin reopening within the next week or two. The reopening will be gradual and will depend on metrics like new COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates and capacity. ICU bed availability is critical, Elrich said at a virtual media briefing Wednesday. On Tuesday, 19 ICU beds in the county were free.
- **Frederick County**
 - a. Frederick County full-time farmers, small businesses and micro businesses will be able to apply for a COVID-relief grant starting next week, County Executive Jan Gardner announced at a press conference on Thursday morning. The JumpStart grants were funded by the county's CARES Act money, which was received this week. Full-time farmers will be eligible for \$6,000, small businesses will be eligible for \$10,000 and micro businesses will be eligible for \$3,300.
 - b. The Victor Cullen Center, the state Department of Juvenile Services' only facility in Frederick County, reported its first COVID-19 case this week after an employee tested positive May 15. The facility, one of only two hardware-secure facilities in Maryland, is designed to house the state's highest-risk youth offenders and currently houses approximately 14 youth.
 - c. Frederick County reported 44 additional COVID-19 cases Thursday, a number likely to rise as three more drive-thru testing sites to test for COVID-19 open in the county. The Walmart on Guilford Drive will start offering drive-thru testing, Frederick County Health Officer Dr. Barbara Brookmyer announced during a press conference Thursday.
- **Washington County**
 - a. A staff member at another Washington County long-term care facility has tested positive for COVID-19. Fahrney Keedy Senior Living Community president and CEO Steve Coetzee Thursday posted a message on the Boonsboro facility's website relating that a staff member had tested positive and was asymptomatic. The message said the staff member is currently quarantining.
 - b. Seven more residents at a Boonsboro long-term care facility have contracted COVID-19 and there are two new staff cases at a Hagerstown care facility, the Maryland Department of Health reported Wednesday. Sterling Health Care on South Main Street in Boonsboro has seen its resident COVID-19 cases go from 14 to 21, according to the health department.
- **Allegany County**
 - a. Allegany County released its Roadmap to Reopening on Wednesday, which outlines the guidelines the county's business and tourism industry will follow as recovery from the coronavirus progresses. "As we continue to get people safely back to work, this guide serves as a tool for businesses who are ready, willing, and able to serve their fellow residents once again," said Commission President Jake Shade in a news release.

- b. The COVID-19 pandemic has left food banks under pressure to meet the rising demand of hungry families and individuals. To assist in efforts to feed the hungry, Maryland Farm Bureau and the Maryland Food Bank have partnered to launch the #HungerHeroes campaign. The goal is to raise awareness of the work that the food bank is doing to help struggling families and to strengthen the connection between food and agriculture.
- Garrett County
 - a. While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented Garrett College from celebrating a traditional commencement, the circumstances did not prevent it from celebrating the Class of 2020's achievements and accomplishments. Garrett College launched a commemorative webpage on Saturday morning, which would have been the college's 48th commencement ceremony.